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Cycling toward an end



HANDOUT/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Troy Dowhaniuk, of St. Catharines, is nearing the end of his cross-country bike tour to raise funds for SickKids Hospital in Toronto. See story on page 2.



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UPFRONT

■ **FUNDRAISER:** Cyclist inspired to help others after dog stricken with cancer

Cross-country journey supports SickKids

MARYANNE FIRTH
PelhamMedia Network

Troy Dowhaniuk found inspiration in Kaos.

The family dog taught him the meaning of unconditional love. She also taught him how quickly cancer can take a life. There was only a one-month span between the time the 10-year-old rottweiler was diagnosed with the invasive disease and the point at which Dowhaniuk had to say goodbye in December 2013.

It was the St. Catharines resident's first encounter with cancer and, in his mind, it changed everything.

After the death of Kaos, Dowhaniuk felt he could no longer take life for granted and became determined to make a difference in the world.

"I was not appreciating what was right in front of me," the 30-year-old said, adding he soon realized how lucky he was to be able to make the choices in life that have led him to where he is today.

"There are three-year-old kids who get sick and have no chance to make good or bad decisions," he said, adding no child should go without experiencing life to its fullest.

Wanting to do his part, the avid cyclist decided a cross-country bike tour was a fitting way to raise funds for children facing not only cancer, but other serious illnesses.

"I want to give other people the opportunity to grow up and do something I'm doing now," he said.

On June 1, he began his trek across Canada in support of SickKids Hospital in Toronto



Troy Dowhaniuk, of St. Catharines, is nearing the end of his cross-country bike tour to raise funds for SickKids Hospital in Toronto.

and in memory of Kaos.

Beginning in Tofino, B.C., he has since travelled to Sydney, N.S., and will soon reach the final leg of his journey in Newfoundland.

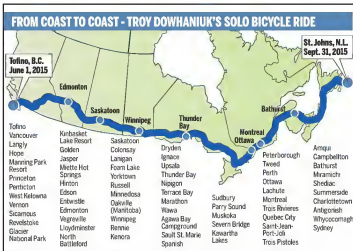
Though he initially planned to be on the road until Sept. 30, Dowhaniuk plans to be back in St. Catharines by mid-month.

He's been striving to do a

minimum of 90 kilometres per day, but has had some marathon moments that have surpassed the 200-km mark in a 24-hour span.

"It really puts you ahead, but you're exhausted the next day," he said by phone during a brief pitstop.

"By then you're ready for a hot shower, a plate of pasta and bed."



While he's still a ways away from his \$50,000 goal, sitting at \$7,100 as of last Tuesday, Dowhaniuk said he's been left in awe of the generosity of strangers across the country, many of whom have invited him in for a hot meal and offered a place to stay.

"The trip has been unreal. Meeting people had just been fantastic," he said, adding the support he's received has helped to get him through the difficult days.

Dowhaniuk has hit a few snags along the road, including an inability to share his story and collect donations in Quebec due to the language barrier.

"It was a setback, not being able to get my message across, but it is beautiful there," he

said. The wind, however, has unexpectedly been the most difficult part of Dowhaniuk's trip.

"It can break you emotionally and physically," he said, adding it can make for both an intense and long day of riding.

But the good of the journey has far outweighed the bad.

"The trip has changed my view on life," Dowhaniuk said.

"I didn't think it would change my values as much as it has."

While he was previously running restaurants in the local hospitality industry, he believes a change is on the horizon as a result.

"I don't know what I'm

going to do with myself," he said. "But I'm not sure running restaurants is for me anymore."

Rather than planning his next career move, Dowhaniuk is more focused on making a trip to the SickKids oncology department upon his return.

He intends to host a homecoming fundraiser once back in the Garden City in an effort to boost donations for the cause.

To make a donation or for more information, visit www.projectsthatmatter.ca.

To follow the remainder of Dowhaniuk's journey, visit www.facebook.com/projectsthatmatter.

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■ **DARREN BOOTH**

A Capitol gig for St. Catharines illustrator

DON FRASER
Postmedia Network

They lived some of Washington D.C.'s most tumultuous stairways was to travel to a landmark law.

The portraits and words of supporters of the disabled and were commissioned by Google to celebrate 25 years of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Google teamed up with the agency 72andSunny and used the talents of Darren Booth, a St. Catharines illustrator, to create the inspiring murals that flowed along the sides of icons like the American Museum of Natural History and Carnegie Library from July 24-28.

It's the latest feather in the cap for Booth, a 38-year-old who has had a raft of major international clients since freelancing in 2001.

As soon as I saw the brief about the project that Google sent, I knew I wanted to do it," he said inside his St. Paul St. studio. "So I got it, and then they said we're ready to start on Friday and I think it was a Tuesday."

"I said, 'I can do it no problem' ... and probably spent 130 hours on it," he said of the "Google Impact Challenge: Disabilities" gig that had a two-week deadline.

Booth, a native of Sault Ste. Marie, studied illustration at Sheridan College.

Seven years ago, he relocated from Montreal to north St. Catharines with his wife Rebecca. Together, they have two young children, Owen and Avery.

It wasn't an easy start for Booth who launched his freelance career with a mass "promo"-mailed postcards sent to magazines and ad agencies featuring his works, contacts and website.

"That first post-graduation blitz was sent out on Sept. 10, 2001. I woke up the next morning and the world changed," he said. "Illustrators' and photographers' work dried up."

He finally got a client in the network ESPN and things have

stayed steady since.

"Three or four months after that, I finally got the second job," he said. "When it rains it pours, for the most part," seems to be the work pattern, he says with a smile.

"The first five years, you struggle to make ends meet ... then you can start supporting yourself without a secondary income."

His classic style comes with collages of layers and patterns, and occasional folk-art stylings. "I kind of feel like a traditional dinosaur because I'm still working in traditional media," he said. "But that doesn't stop me from altering colours on the computer if I need to, or working digitally the odd time."

Booth has had a roster of clients, with gigs from history-themed labels for Ohio's Great Lakes Brewing Co., and clients including Target and Coca-Cola, and even a book cover for comedian Steve Martin.

"I don't even know I'll be on the radar here," he said with a laugh. "I don't know if it's intentional I keep my profile low ... it's mainly in the States and online so I don't necessarily need to have a profile anywhere really."

"I just do the work try to speak for itself."

He mused that it can be a business that punishes the ego.

"The list of jobs of that I've done is pretty odd and I'm pretty happy about it."

"And the list of jobs I've almost had is infinitely cooler," he said with a laugh. "It hurts sometimes when you don't get a job, but there are so many factors that are out of your control."

Booth said things have gotten easier since he moved into his new office on St. Paul Street near Queen Street about 18 months ago. Booth needed the creative space and quiet.

"Now I can separate work from life and it's a better thing to do for me," he said. "Now I am dad at home and can also put in my eight hours at work."

"It is working out really well."

■ **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:** Service to start next Tuesday

Pelham Transit set to shift into gear

WAYNE CAMPBELL
Postmedia Network

Pelham Transit could start rolling within the town and linking with Niagara Regional Transit Tuesday.

The town's residents can ride free until Sept. 30.

At a special noon meeting Monday, town council approved an agreement with Sharp Bus Lines Ltd. to operate the pilot project until March 31, 2017.

It is built on a 16-passenger, fully-accessible bus with a bicycle carrier.

Services will include five hours of daily public transit, a by-appointment trans-cab for up to five hours and shuttles to special events.

For the pilot, Pelham received a \$100,000 provincial grant from the Ministry of Transportation. It encourages experiments in rural transit.

For its part, the town must contribute \$60,000. Fares, advertising and sponsorships will ease the town's share, said Vickie VanRavensway, director of recreation, culture and wellness.

VanRavensway will meet with Sharp representatives this week to iron out routes, schedules and fares. Information will be posted online.

Sharp provides bus services for schools, municipalities and charities. It will use its St. Catharines office to dispatch for Pelham Transit.

VanRavensway estimates fares would be about \$3 a ride when implemented. For Erie charges \$2.50 and Niagara-on-the-Lake \$3 for similar services.

"It will be up to council to set the fees, of course," she said, "and we will have monthly passes to lower the cost per ride."

The transit route could begin with a loop through Fenwick's subdivisions and downtown in Fenwick, roll down Canboro Road through Ridgeway, go north on Effingham, weave through Fonthill and then head to Welland to link up with the regional transit service possibly at Seaway Mall.

Pelham is talking to Thorold about a transfer site at the Thorold fire station on Orchard Road 20 at Highway 406. Regional transit buses going both ways pass by it within minutes of each other, said VanRavensway.

While Niagara Region also operates a trans cab, it cannot compete with Pelham's service.

ice.

The region will take residents outside of the town and back but can't link points within Pelham. The Pelham service is limited to places within the town.

The shuttle service will cover special events such as the Canada Day parade or Thursday night concerts. The town has run event shuttles for years.

At Monday's council meeting, Ward 2 Coun. Gary Accursi asked if the town could back out of the agreement if ridership did not warrant the service. He also asked if the town could end its contract with the provider over service questions.

VanRavensway said the town is committed to continue the pilot program. If it had to, the town could give six months' notice to end contract with the provider if unsatisfactory.

She said she would expect to start the transit service with about five riders on the first bus runs. However, the town plans extensive promotion of the service.

Based on reactions at a series of public meetings and online responses to the town during a summer consultation period, she said people are eager to see a transit service.

"I can't go near Lookout Ridge (retirement community) without people asking when the service will start," she said.

Pelham Cares, which has a medical appointment ride service, is a partner in the pilot project that will ease a strain on its service.

From 2008 to 2009, Welland Transit operated a bus loop through Fonthill but it cancelled the experiment due to a lack of ridership.

Mayor Dave Augustyn said the new pilot project is better planned and extends its service farther afield, reaching to Fenwick and other areas beyond Fonthill.

"We did consultation in advance after receiving the grant," he said. "People are excited about this. It is one of our strategic goals" to improve transportation within the town.

Ward 3 Coun. John Durely said, unlike the Welland Transit experiment, "this is a made-in-Pelham solution."

For more information see the town's website www.pelham.ca/transit.

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Getting public transit rolling in Pelham

DAVE AUGUSTYN
for PelhamNews

In early 2015, town council and senior staff engaged in a strategic planning session to help identify goals and priorities for moving Pelham forward.

One of our key priorities from our overarching goals was to offer public transportation to Pelham residents.

Why? It's consistently something that folks of all ages have requested over the years.

Later in January, the town applied for funding for the Ministry of Transportation's Community Transportation Pilot Grant Program, which helps municipalities implement or improve public transportation. In March, the MTO approved the maximum —

\$100,000 — to help cover the majority of the costs to implement transit system in Pelham.

Staff consulted with Pelham Cares, local seniors housing facilities and associations, Pelham's seniors advisory council, the mayor's youth advisory council, existing shuttle services, and Niagara Region and area transportation specialists. The town also undertook a community consultation and received more than 290 responses with suggestions for routing, timing and pickup and dropoff locations.

Finally, the town considered the times that we currently provide transit — for Summerfest, for the Thursday night events (supermarket, bandshell, farmers' market) and for Canada Day.

In August, the town issued a request for proposal for a provider for conventional trans-

it service (offered five hours a day), a trans-cab service (up to five hours a day, Monday to Saturday and prequalified by appointment), and shuttle service for special events and festivals from September 2015 to March 2017 (19 months).

Staff reviewed the proposals, met with the potential providers, and recommended awarding the contract to Sharp Bus Line Ltd. at a special council meeting on Monday.

This pilot's expense budget is just under \$175,000 — \$118,000 for conventional transit, \$22,000 for the trans-cab service, and \$35,000 for advertising, signs, etc. The provincial \$100,000 grant and all revenues (fares and advertising) will significantly reduce this expense.

This service will not only link Fonthill and Fenwick, provide linkages for shop-

ping and appointments, but will also link to other regional transit — making it easier for Brock and Niagara College students and employees.

Routes will be based on the public consultation and may be adjusted over the first few weeks of the service if necessary.

Please check out local media, the town's webpage and social media for more information about the implementation details.

Thanks so much to the provincial government and all who filled in the surveys and provided feedback and ideas. With their help, council and I look forward to the town offering this new service.

Please check out past columns at www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.ca and contact Mayor Dave at mayordave@pelham.ca.



HANDOUT/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Catharina Wiards is pictured at Vercheres, Que., in May 1970 in this photo by Rene Beauchamp.

Shipwrecks — Catharina Wiards

SKIP GILHAM
for Postmedia Network

The West German freighter *Catharina Wiards* was built at Bremerhaven and completed on May 3, 1969.

The 141.2-metre-long cargo vessel was a St. Lawrence Seaway trader the next year and got into trouble at the Soo Locks on July 29, 1970.

Strong winds prevailed as the ship headed upbound and it was blown sideways at the entrance to the Davis & Sabin Locks blocking both locks for two hours. A Canadian tug came to the assistance and *Catharina Wiards* was realigned and cleared to continue to Duluth.

On May 19, 1972, the vessel caught fire on the Indian Ocean and had to be abandoned by the crew during a voyage from Kobe, Japan, to Durban, South Africa. The hull remained afloat, was found drifting on May 27 and taken to Durban to be unloaded.

Following repairs, it returned to service for Greek owners as *Aristaios* and was back through the seaway as *Silver Bay* in 1979. It became *Trader* in 1986 and sank in the Red Sea on Nov. 5, 1987, after the engine room flooded during a voyage from Italy to China.

ONLINE



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■ **ONGUAAHRA:** Thunder of Waters**Sound and light show returns to Niagara Falls****JOHN LAW**
Postmedia Network

The thunder and water has returned to Queen Victoria Park.

The sound and light show Onguiahra: Thunder of Waters continues to Sept. 13. The 20-minute performance projects images onto 8,700 litres (33,000 gallons) of water spread across a 30-by-11-metre screen.

The visuals, with the aid of live actors at the show, share the different ways Niagara Falls has been viewed and described over generations.

Niagara Parks Commission

chairwoman Janice Thomson says the show was "spectacularly well received" last year.

"It kept people in the destination longer at night. You can't start the show until it's dark, so people waited for the first show and then spent more time wandering the Niagara Falls area down by the park."

Shows run at 8:15, 9:15 and 10:15 each night, with live music between each performance.

The show is located on the same spot as the annual New Year's Eve concert.

The name Niagara is derived from the First Nations word

Onguiahra, which means "thunder of waters." It was used to describe the first reaction to the falls.

Thomson says the combination of water and light creates a "dramatic" effect, especially with the actual falls nearby.

"It's like a big pond, and then they create a veil of water," she says. "They project onto that veil."

"It's about four or five days putting it all together. But it's the power of the projectors they bring in that's really amazing."

john.law@sunmedia.ca

The minimum wage is going up.**Here's what you need to know:**

Minimum Wage Rate	June 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015	As of October 1, 2015
General Minimum Wage	\$11.00 per hour	\$11.25 per hour
Student Minimum Wage: Students under 18 and working 28 hours per week or less when school is in session, or working during a school break or summer holidays	\$10.30 per hour	\$10.55 per hour
Liquor Servers Minimum Wage	\$9.55 per hour	\$9.80 per hour
Hunting and Fishing Guides Minimum Wage: Rate for working less than five consecutive hours in a day	\$55.00	\$56.30
Hunting and Fishing Guides Minimum Wage: Rate for working five or more hours in a day whether or not the hours are consecutive	\$110.00	\$112.60
Homeworkers Wage: Employees doing paid work in their own home for an employer	\$12.10 per hour	\$12.40 per hour

On October 1, 2015, the general minimum wage will increase to \$11.25, from the current rate of \$11.00. The minimum wage will be reviewed on a yearly basis. The rates will be published by April 1st and come into effect on October 1st of the same year.

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Michael Mann

Michael is a member of the corporate-commercial team at Lancaster, Brooks & Welch, where he provides advice regarding the various methods of carrying on a business. He assists in the incorporation and organization of companies and drafts security agreements, shareholder agreements, leases, franchise agreements and other documents of a corporate or commercial nature for clients. Michael also provides services as a registered trademark agent.



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LOCAL NEWS

■ POLICING

Discipline changes for cops?

BILL SAWCHUK
Postmedia Network

Niagara's police chief would like to suspend officers accused of serious wrongdoing without pay — and he might just get that option.

The provincial government announced earlier this month it is planning to revamp legislation that guides policing in Ontario. It would be first changes to the Police Services Act since 1990.

One of the options under consideration would allow police chiefs to suspend officers without pay if they are facing disciplinary for on-duty conduct, or charged with serious criminal offences while off duty.

"As it stands now, the chief has authority to suspend an officer without pay," McGuire said. "I can suspend them and tell them they can't

come to work, and I can take away their power as police officers, but I can't stop paying them.

"There are some cases where I'm talking to my neighbour at the end of the driveway, or members of my family, and I can't explain why."

Former constable Dean Rudge is a case in point — though McGuire wouldn't comment on specific cases.

Rudge was eventually convicted of giving confidential police documents to the Hell's Angels motorcycle gang. He was paid to sit at home while his case wound its way through the courts, including a retrial after the Crown appealed Rudge's initial acquittal.

Rudge is serving a four-year penitentiary term.

McGuire was at the courthouse in Welland when the judge sentenced Rudge



Postmedia Network multi-media journalist Bill Sawchuk speaks with Niagara Regional Police chief Jeff McGuire on Aug. 27.

and filed papers to suspend Rudge's pay immediately.

The base pay for a police officer in the period from Rudge's arrest in April 2007 to the time of his conviction would have amounted to \$540,417. That calculation is based on contract agreements with wage increases that saw

his salary climb to \$85,787 from \$73,483.

"We have 705 sworn officers currently on staff, and 99.9 percent of those officers will never enter the disciplinary process," McGuire said. "They come to work, do their job and uphold their oath."

Cliff Priest, president of the

Niagara Region Police Association, which represents front-line officers, said his organization is not opposed to suspension without pay for serious misconduct off duty.

"That's been our stance since Day 1, but there have to be safeguards, and we haven't seen them in writing," Priest

said.

"We raise an eyebrow when one of our colleagues is arrested. We expect to be held to a higher standard because of the job we do. We don't want to work with someone who doesn't uphold the oath to protect and serve. But we are also entitled to due process."

"We don't want the chief to be able to suspend just who he likes."

The proposed changes to the Police Services Act could also address some other issues. They include advancements in technology, police interactions with vulnerable individuals such as those suffering from mental health or addiction issues, and enhanced expectations about oversight and accountability of law enforcement.

Bill Sawchuk@postmedia.ca
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■ POLICING

Con board survey will cost taxpayers \$25,000

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

An untended Niagara Police Services Board survey meant to solicit community input on the force will come with a \$25,000 price tag.

Used to help shape a provincially-mandated three-year business plan for the Niagara Regional Police, the document was created by a third-party consultant and designed to gauge residents' perceptions of safety, crime, community priorities and police performance. But since its introduction to the public last week, the document's credibility has been questioned and accusations made by the association representing rank- and file officers about personal political agendas influencing its content.

It was at the July 23 meeting that the authority to directly hire a consultant to complete the business plan, including the survey, was delegated by the board to the chair and vice-chair, as well as the committee chair overseeing the project.

The contract, which did not

go to tender, was later awarded to DPM Consulting, board executive director Deb Morton said. The company has not been previously used to complete the NRP's business plans, he added.

While \$50,000 was budgeted for the 2016-18 business plan, Morton said the estimate provided by DPM came in at \$42,500, including \$25,000 for the community input survey.

The mandated business plan is completed in conjunction with the police service, but is the board's responsibility to create, police Chief Jeff McGuire said.

"Over the last four or five business plans, the service was responsible for all the external consultations. I have a corporate analyst on staff, Dr. Paul Divers, who has handled that portion of it for us."

At the July 23 meeting, the board made "an amendment to their bylaws, which put the external consultation piece into the hands of the board," McGuire said.

"We have to gather information together in order to get the plan done, but as to the details (about the survey), I would have to direct any questions to the board. It is their survey. They hired the people to do it. They put the survey out. We will just have to see where it goes."

Police board chair Bob Gale declined to answer any further questions pertaining to the survey.

"We've done enough interviews on this," he said by phone, adding Morton had also "answered enough questions" on the topic during previous conversations with Postmedia Niagara.

Gale said he intended to provide this newspaper with DPM's proposal outlining project details, but was awaiting consent from the head of the company, who was out of town.

He declined to provide any further detail.

Postmedia Niagara has yet to receive the document.

It was Cliff Priest, president of the Niagara Region Police Association, who last week lambasted the survey, which he said "lacks credibility" and contains "personal agendas questions of the chair and vice-chair (Andy Petrowski)."

Since that time, Priest said

he's spoken to many people in the community who "just cannot understand why the Police Services Board have done what they've done, why they did not do a proper survey."

The questions are phrased in such a way that they will not provide the information needed to properly form an effective business plan for the police service for the next three years, he said Friday.

"It's very poorly laid out," Priest said of the document, which he believes "won't give us any idea of how to concentrate our efforts to police the community."

As an example, Priest referenced one question included in the survey that asks respondents to rank, out of 20 crimes, what they believe are the top ten issues in Niagara.

The way the question is worded, as well as the answering structure, will not provide information on which issues are most prevalent in different parts of the region, he said.

"The surveys in the past have always allowed us to provide proper business cases," he said, calling it "scary" for officers that an unsuitable plan could be created as a result of the skewed information collected.

"The public will be getting upset and my members will have to respond to why there are inadequate patrols and inadequate responses," he said.

"It's going to make it hard for us to do our jobs."

Gale previously told Postmedia the board wanted to ask the "hard questions" intended to make the police force better.

"I'm proud of the questions we've asked. It is not a vanilla survey. We didn't want vanilla questions and vanilla answers."

"Some of the questions are standard ones that all the police forces ask, but if we are going to do a survey, we are going to do it right — and ask some tough questions."

The consultant will report directly to the board regarding the business plan, which is expected to be finalized by the end of the year.

The survey, said to be both anonymous and confidential for respondents, is available online until Sept. 28 at niagara-police.ca.

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■ OPEN HOUSE: Ringtail Ranch welcomes hundreds of visitors

Saving the 'most endangered'

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

Two donkeys wandered through the gates at Ringtail Ranch and Rescue as to greet the hundreds of visitors that arrived Saturday morning.

They were among a menagerie of animals that attracted the visitors to the 12-hectare of property in Wainfleet.

The open house, held Saturday and Sunday, was an opportunity to cuddle with a lemur, a chinchilla, a kangaroo or various other unusual animals, and help the owners of Ringtail Ranch and Rescue work to preserve an endangered species.

"The black and white lemurs right now are the most endangered species on the planet," said Joni Cook, who runs the ranch with her husband Mark Drysdale and their three daughters. "There are only about 400 or 500 of them left in the wild. While there are many other species at risk of extinction, articles published in scientific journals during the past few years support Cook's statement. And the plight of wild



ALLAN BENNER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Joni Cook hold King Julian the lemur, during an open house at Ringtail Ranch and Rescue Saturday in Wainfleet.

lemurs is getting worse.

Only a year ago, she said there were about 600 lemurs on Madagascar, the island

nation off the east coast of Africa and the only place on the planet that the unique

species calls home.

The lemur's jungle habitat on the island is quickly being cut down for farmland, and as their habitat disappears, the wild lemurs are disappearing too.

"They just keep clearing-cutting, they just keep taking land," Cook said.

Meanwhile, she said lemurs are hunted for food, further reducing their population.

"If we don't do something, they're going to go extinct before we know it," she said, as a lemur named King Julian rested peacefully against her chest.

There are about 10,000 lemurs living in captivity, including five that share Cook's home, and she fears that ultimately captive lemurs will be all that remain of the species.

Cook said she's working with organizations around the world to help preserve the species, through captive breeding programs.

"Unfortunately, captive bred are going to be the only ones left," she said.

And if enough lemurs can be bred in captivity, she hopes that they may be able



Richard Brown
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to eventually reintroduce the species into the wild.

"Hopefully, one day we can repopulate," she said.

Cook said she was getting a lot of guests for the open house.

"We've been getting a lot of response through e-mails, Facebook and everything, and we kind of expected it to be a little crazy," she said.

"That's why we did this over two days. We were hoping it would kind of even out (the crowds) and we wouldn't be so overwhelmed."

But by 10:30 a.m., a half hour before the open house was set to start, she said people were lining up to get in.

As busy as it was Saturday, Cook was expecting even more guests Sunday. And she couldn't have been happier about it.

While enjoying the company of the animals, the numerous visitors at the open house were also helping Cook and her family reach their goal.

The open house was a fundraising event, held to help the family create a 3,000-square-foot facility where the lemurs can be properly cared for.

"We're working on building a nice big building for them, because right now their facility, our house," Cook said, laughing.

"They play outside through the day in nice weather, but obviously in winter it's a little tight."

In the winter, she said the lemurs in her care can often be found in the living room, relaxing by the fire.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **MUSIC:** Ashlynnne Vince cracks Billboard's top 40 list – again

Welland singer better than Bieber

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

Since she was a child growing up in Welland, Ashlynnne Vince's dream has been to be on a big lighted stage, at a sold-out show.

"And people being there for my music – singing along and clapping and really paying attention."

Vince is getting closer to making that dream a reality.

"I'm one step closer to where I'm headed," she says. "It's a big step forward."

Last week, the 18-year-old Welland resident's latest song, *Hands Off*, made it to No. 36 on Billboard's Mainstream Top 40 Indicator Charts, listing songs receiving most airplay on U.S.

radio stations.

She's two points ahead of Justin Bieber, whose new song *Where Are You Now* is currently at No. 40.

"I've been blessed with the people I've met and how everyone is saying, 'I want to help you get to where you're going,'" she says. "It's been amazing."

This is the second song from Vince's soon-to-be-released CD to receive attention from radio stations. Earlier this year, her song *Hold On To Love* also made it to Billboard's top 40 charts for radio airplay, where it stayed for seven weeks, peaking at No. 36. Vince, who just graduated from Welland Centennial Secondary School in June, describes it as a

surreal experience.

"It's different."

Two years ago Vince recorded a CD of songs she'd written, including one song called *Tidal Wave*.

That CD garnered her the attention of music producers in Nashville, including Tony Mator from Plateau Music, and led to the recording of her new material which has garnered the attention of radio listeners.

Although her music is getting considerable airplay south of the border, her songs have yet to get much time on Canadian radio stations. Vince has yet to hear her music broadcast over the local airwaves.

Because her songs were recorded in the U.S., they

don't meet Canadian content requirements for airplay.

That's something she hopes to change.

"I'm working towards that," she says.

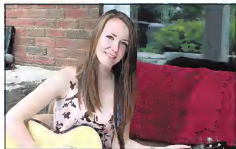
Her mother, Loralee Vince, says they're hoping to work with a Canadian music promoter to get her songs played here as well.

"We're hoping Canadian radio will get on board," she says.

In the meantime, the singer has teamed up with guitarist Bryce Moore and is performing shows throughout southern Ontario.

They recently performed at the Scottish Gaelic Centre in Niagara Falls, opening for *Britain's Got Talent* finalist Aik Chrysochou.

"It was awesome, because



ALLAN BENNER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Welland's Ashlynnne Vince has a second top 40 song on U.S. radio stations.

we were on the big screen outside. It was cool," Vince says. "It was a fun night."

Considering the radio airplay she's receiving in the U.S., Vince is in the early stages of planning a tour of that country.

With high school behind her, Vince says she's planning to focus on her music career "100 per cent."

But as her career progresses, Vince isn't forgetting the com-

munity she's called home throughout her life.

The YouTube video for *Hands Off* was filmed in Niagara, including scenes of Welland's Main Street Bridge in the background, as well as Decew Falls.

"I'm proud to be from Welland."

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Mantini Sisters, All-Star Big Band close out bandshell season

Postmedia Network

The Mantini sisters and The Toronto All-Star Big Band bring the 10th season of the Fonthill bandshell concert series to a close Thursday evening.

The Mantini Sisters — Sandra, Barbara and Ann — have been captivating audiences across North America with their powerful voices, humour, musical versatility and style. Their concerts feature popular songs from swing, jazz, Broadway, folk and country.

Performing for three decades they have co-produced as many CD recordings on their own label, Trio Music: *Moments to Remember* (1997), *The Mantini Sisters — Christmas* (2004) and *Pretty World* (2012).

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KANDOUT/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

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The Mantini Sisters last performed at the Peace Park bandshell in 2008; The Toronto All-Star Big Band visited in 2009 and

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Rezz: Another Falls EDM star on the rise

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

The moment was so surreal, Isabelle Rezzadeh can barely contain herself re-telling the story.

There she was last week in Montreal, opening up for her musical idol Deadmau5, when someone sidled up beside her on stage. She turned to her right, and there was the Maüs himself, Joel Zimmerman.

"He comes up to me, while I'm on stage, and literally goes 'You're from Niagara Falls?'" she recalls with a laugh. "As I'm performing we're talking on stage. I was telling him I went to (AN) Myer and stuff like that. He just seemed genuinely interested ... where I'm from and how I'm here."

"He was so nice to me. It really did feel like there was some sort of connection because we're both from Niagara Falls."

After the chat came another surprise: Instead of heading backstage afterwards, Zim-

merman pulled up a chair and watched the rest of Rezzadeh's set. He may have been watching another Niagara EDM star in the making.

"I was just thinking, 'Imagine if my mom knew that he was watching me right now.' She'd be like having a heart attack."

But Rezzadeh — who goes by the stage name Rezz — didn't get there by accident. The 20-year-old producer has built considerable buzz in the past year for her thumping, cinematic tracks and infectious energy. The words pour out quickly over the phone as she describes her whirlwind life since graduating high school two years ago.

"I've always been a hard-working person with things that I love," she says. "When I was young, it was sports. Basketball and stuff, I used to excel. But there's a difference between loving something and being passionate about something."

"With dance music, creating it, it's very clear in my mind that this is passion. My whole life, I've been looking for something to give all my attention to."

A DJ since she was 16, Rezzadeh bid her time playing other people's music until a Deadmau5 concert inspired her to create her own. She fired up her Ableton software and was struggling until she watched a Deadmau5 livestream — one of his marathon sessions in which he literally creates a track from start to finish in his studio.

Her mind was blown. She saw just what it took.

"I was so captivated by what he was doing," she says. "I thought, 'If I got the hang of this one day, this could be really fun.'"

"I studied like non-stop. There was a point where I'd stay awake until 6 a.m. every single day just studying production. YouTube videos and stuff, just learning about how

to technically do things. I was confident in my ideas, but wasn't fully confident in the production end of it."

As she kept giving form to her musical ideas, an identity and unique sound started peaking through. Enough to get her noticed by EDM producer Atlas, who records for Zimmerman's label mau5trap ("I guess he was scrolling through the Internet and found my music"). He sent some of her tracks to the label manager, who asked to keep her posted for a possible release.

When the label put out her spacey single Serenity in June, she felt like a "legit" artist. Things picked up further when three more songs were released on Skrillex's label OWSLA. The dubstep producer noticed her on a blog he "stumbled upon," and liked what he heard.

"He ended up following me on Twitter," she says. "This is one of the moments where



MILE DUMAS/ISTOCK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Niagara Falls resident Isabelle Rezzadeh, who goes by the stage name Rezz, could be the next EDM star in the making.

my brain exploded. I look at my phone and it says 'Skrillex followed you on Twitter.' I ran upstairs and my mom says my face went white. As soon as I showed her that, he messaged me immediately after."

The seal of approval from her two biggest influences loaded Rezzadeh with confidence. Her management, Toronto-based 2+2, got her signed with EDM booking agency AM Only for a series of big shows. On Sept. 27 she plays TomorrowWorld in Atlanta, followed by the Monster Mash in Toronto Oct. 30 and Prime in Boston Dec. 5.

Assorted other gigs are filling up her calendar, to go along with her debut EP Insurance, released July 20.

She's taking a cautious approach to her early success. She still lives at home, with no plans to move out soon. And she's keeping her focus on original music. Instead of coasting on familiar tracks. Her career in many ways mirrors the Niagara Falls-bred path of Zimmerman, who is now one of the industry's giants.

"The reason Deadmau5 is as big as he is, is because people connect to his music," she says. "If you want to be super successful and actually have something people really hold onto and connect with, that's when you've got to produce music."

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TOMATOES - Peas, Field, Eggplant Sweet and Hot Peppers, Squash, P.T.O., Sweet Fennel, 33003, Franque Rd. Westfield Call ahead (905)890-3549	2 BDRM avail. Large quiet mature bkg. Bath, city, sec. ent. close to Maple park bus/shopping. Starting @ \$989. 279 Crows Ave Call 1-906-735-6748	30 coming are, wellstocked Saturday August 29, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Everything must go. Ouseen size bed, and tubs, kitchen table and chairs, dishes and kitchen utensils. Everything in the house is for sale, please to sell. Rush or Shine.	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">FORT ERIE TIMES</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Advertising Representative</h3> </div> </div> <p>The Advertising department of The Fort Erie Times has an immediate opening for a sales professional to complement our outside sales team during a maternity leave of absence.</p> <p>The selected individual must be an ideas person and understand that their role is to develop and implement advertising solutions through multi platforms including in-paper and on-line that will benefit The Fort Erie Times advertisers. The achievement-focused individual will be committed to customer satisfaction and be a motivated self-starter who is able to achieve and exceed sales budgets.</p> <p>You will inherit a blend of an established account base with the on-going expectation of developing new business (cold calls). With these accounts, you will develop effective advertising packages/partnerships to meet client needs and deliver sound results.</p> <p>We are looking for an individual who can meet the following qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ability to develop long-term effective advertising solutions for established and new customers • Proven track record in sales with superior prospecting and closing skills • A talent for strategic thinking with an entrepreneurial edge and the ability to identify opportunity • Exceptional communication and presentation skills, in both one-on-one and group settings • Be a multi tasker with the ability to prioritize work with in a deadline-driven environment • A commitment to exceptional customer service and follow-through <p>Interested applicants can submit their resume no later than Friday, Sept. 18th 2015 to the attention of:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Myra Robertson, myra.robertson@sunmedia.ca Fort Erie Times 336 Central Ave Fort Erie, Ontario L2A 3T6</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please be advised that only those chosen for an interview will be contacted.</i></p>		
Child Care Professionals Wanted Nonprofit Charitable Organization - PECE Child Care Supervisor 200 PERMANENT RECREATION SUPERVISOR POSITIONS 1. ACW EARLY LEARNING E.W.FARR (Farnwick) 2. ACW EARLY LEARNING OAKWOOD (Port Colborne) 7:00 am - 10:00 am & 8:00 am - 8:00 pm Supervisor Split Shift (Premium in applicable hours may change according to centre needs) *Qualifies for benefits For more information please email chris.nichols@acw.on.ca, visit our website at www.acw.on.ca or call A Child's World Administration office at 905-735-1162	Drivers /Transportation Transport Materials CD DRIVER ENERGETIC DZ DRIVER REQUIRED FULL TIME. POSITION WILL CONSIST OF LOADING, DELIVERY AND UNLOADING OF BULK LIQUIDS. SOME WAREHOUSE WORK REQUIRED. OVERTIME MAY BE REQUIRED. BULK LIQUID & FORK LIFT EXPERIENCE AN ASSET. MUST HAVE CLEAN ABSTRACT. JOB STARTS IMMEDIATELY. PLEASE EMAIL RESUME TO: sferraro@wastpaper.ca OR FAX TO (905) 634-6923. ALL REPLIES WILL BE HELD IN THE STRICTEST OF CONFIDENCE.	businessdirectory Carpet/Flooring CARPETS & FLOORS I have several beautiful vinyls, new Stainmaster and 100% nylon carpet. I will carpet your living room for \$389. Price incl. carpet, pad and installation (25 yds) STEVE 905-662-6330	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>Call us to get your items SOLD in the Classifieds</p> <p>1-888-786-7821</p> </div> </div>		
Career Training	Career Training	Career Training	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>Call us to get your items SOLD in the Classifieds</p> <p>1-888-786-7821</p> </div> </div>		

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LIFETIME LEARNING 535 Lake St., St. Catharines or call: 905-646-5737	Wed., Sept. 9, 16 @ 1:00pm

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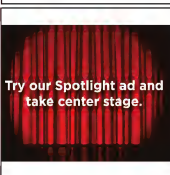


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- Boys dress code pants
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